IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

## Dear Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. The items listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 may be deemed to be pertinent to the above-identified application and are made of record to assist the Patent and Trademark Office in its examination of this application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to fully consider the items and to independently ascertain their teaching.

This Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. \$ 1.97 is not to be construed as a representation that:

(1) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (2) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or

enabling; or (3) the above information constitutes prior art to

he	subje	ct in	ventic	on.									
L.	$\boxtimes$	Enclosed is PTO Form 1449 (and a duplicate thereof).											
2.				ed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 are not in sh language.									
	•		langu there	each of the following items, an English- nage translation of that item or a portion eof or a concise explanation of the relevance nat item is enclosed:									
			expla	each of the following items, a concise anation of that item is incorporated in the ification of the above-identified application:									
·			U.S. Pleas pates	each of the following items, a corresponding or other English-language patent is enclosed. Se consider the U.S. or other English-language outs in accordance with the procedure set forth PEP S 609:									
3.		Subm	issio	n in Accordance with 37 CFR § 1.98(d).									
	Any copy of the items listed on the enclosed Form PTO- 1449 that is not enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement was previously cited by or submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office in Application Serial No. [Ser. No.], filed [Date], of which the present application relies upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120.												
4.		Subm	issio	n in Accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(b).									
		This	Info	rmation Disclosure Statement is being filed									
				With the application;									
				Within three months of the filing date of a national application;									
				Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage in an international application; or									
				Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits,									

and NO FEE is due for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement.

		Disclosure Statement.
5.	$\boxtimes$	Submission in Accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(c).
		This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the first mailing date of either
		A final action under § 1.113; or
		A notice of allowance under § 1.311.
		A fee is due for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement and the fee is paid below; or
		This Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by one of the certifications pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97(e), and NO FEE is due for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement.
6.		Submission in Accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(d).
		This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of either
		☐ A final action under § 1.113; or
		☐ A notice of allowance under § 1.311,
6.		whichever comes first, but before payment of the issue fee, and is accompanied by
		a. One of the certifications pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97(e), which is set forth below;
		b. The attached petition requesting consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement, and
		c. The petition fee under 37 CFR § 1.17(i)(1), which is paid below.
7.	Cert	ification Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(e).
		The undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office

## cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure

Statement; or

The undersigned certifies that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was

cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, or to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

## 8. Fee Payment Being Made.

	Enclosed													
	\$180.00 fee for submission under 37 CFR § 1.97(c)													
	\$180.00 fee for submission under 37 CFR § 1.97(d)													
	A check in the amount of \$[Amount] to cover the fee payment is enclosed.													
	Charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 18-0582. A duplicate copy of this communication is attached.													
⊠	The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this Information Disclosure Statement or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0582. A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed.													

Respectfully submitted,

Mary-Elizabeth Buckles Registration No. 31,907

REED SMITH LLP Attorneys for Applicants

Mary-Elizabeth Buckles 1301 K Street, N.W. Suite 1100-East Tower Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 414-9267

Filed: December 13, 2001

FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (MODIFIED) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE											TY. DOCKET N 002547/20118	SERIAL NO. 09/598,218			
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(37 CFR 1.9	6(b))								June 21, 2000 1653						
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EXAMINER: Initial citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.